

Remarks

Reconsideration and allowance of this Application is respectfully requested. Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1,3-8 and 10-44 are pending in the application. Claims 4-7 and 13-41 were withdrawn from consideration due to a restriction requirement. Claims 1, 8, 10-12 and 42-44 are under consideration, with claims 1, 42, 43 and 44 being the independent claims.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Telephonic Interview with the Examiner

Applicants thank the Examiner for taking the time for the telephone conference to discuss the outstanding rejections in the above-captioned application with Applicants' representative on July 26, 2004. All outstanding rejections were discussed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph

In the Office Action, at page 2, claims 1, 8, 10-12 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for alleged lack of enablement. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, and without acquiescing with the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 8, 10-12 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

In the Office Action, at page 5, claims 1, 8, 10-12 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, and without acquiescing with the propriety of the rejection, Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 8, 10-12 and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: August 6, 2004

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